

**High School Exit Exam Standards Panel Meeting**  
**The Galleria, Central Main Library Building, Sacramento**  
**May 17, 2000**  
**Minutes**

Panelists present: Sarah Adams, Christine Aranda, Nancy Avoy, Sally Baker, Leon Beauchman, Kathleen Blackwood, Angela Boyle, Kimberlee Breen, Marilyn Buchi, Margaret DeArmond, Ted Erskine, Ana Maria Flores, Ben Flores, Jerry Flores, James Frost, Hal Geiogue, Dave Gordon, Dave Jolly, David Marsh, Ruth Ann McKenna, Ella Miyamoto, Anthony Moye, Becky Reece, Glen Thomas, Mark Wilson, Marilyn K. Wulliger

Panelists not present: Mary Bergan, James Brown, Bill Cirone, Dan Condron, Diego Davalos, Bob Douglas, Fernando Elizondo, Ana Golan, Alice Kawazoe, Sharif Shakrani, David Spence, Curtis Washington, Marilyn Whirry, Jim Wilson

State Board of Education members not present: Marion Joseph, Monica Lozano

Special Education Liaison present: Kendra Rose

California Department of Education staff present: Bob Anderson, John Carey, Jan Chladek, Scott Hill, Paul Michelson, Marion Miller, Paul Warren, Rozlynn Worrall

American Institutes for Research staff present: Paul Williams

HumRRO staff present: Patrick Ford, Laress Wise

David Marsh, High School Exit Examination (HSEE) Panel co-chair, opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. He congratulated Marilyn Whirry, HSEE panel member, on her selection as National Teacher of the Year for 2000-01. Mr. Marsh then noted his recent phone conversation with Monica Lozano, President of the State Board of Education (SBE), where they discussed whether the SBE could adopt the HSEE in stages to provide districts with time and direction to prepare their students for the exam. Test content, for example, might be adopted in June, the test form in October, cut scores in December. Panelists noted that this may not help high schools, which have finished scheduling teacher assignments and course offerings for the coming year. Mr. Marsh also discussed the need to engage math and English-language arts organizations and others in communications related to the HSEE.

Scott Hill, Chief Deputy Superintendent, California Department of Education (CDE), seconded Mr. Marsh's comments on discussions with the SBE and Secretary of Education Burr and asked the panel's help in developing HSEE communications materials.

Mr. Marsh introduced Phil Spears, principal of Rocklin High School, who will be the new director of CDE's Standards and Assessment Division. Mr. Spears said he looks forward to becoming fully involved in the HSEE process and that he hopes his background in education will benefit students in California.

Paul Warren, CDE Deputy Superintendent, described how the HSEE might function as part of the Academic Performance Index and answered panel questions regarding comparisons among schools, test consolidation, other API measures, and calculating API growth in high performing schools.

Bob Anderson invited HSEE panelists to participate in a working group being established to consider the best approaches for special education students. He reminded the panel about the *School's In* sign-up and invited their comments on the draft HSEE notice for parents available at today's meeting. He then asked the panel to consider a potential date for the first administration of the HSEE. He said an underlying consideration is how to optimize opportunity for individual students with the least disruption to school calendars. Other considerations are avoiding the STAR test window and administering the test early enough that schools receive results before summer break. He said that to meet these criteria the test would have to be given by mid-March 2001, with the end of February 2001 as the earliest possible date. Extended discussion followed. Mr. Marsh recommended that a subpanel work during lunch to address this issue. The panel agreed to this.

Paul Williams, American Institutes for Research (AIR), briefed the panel on the spring HSEE field test and on progress toward the fall field test. Discussion followed, much of it regarding time allotted for the field test and how this timing might affect results. Mr. Williams said analysis of field test data would be finished by mid-July.

Lauress Wise, Human Resources Research Organization (HumRRO), presented an update on the HSEE independent evaluation. He said evaluation topics would include the quality, consequences, and fairness of the exam. He said HumRRO will issue an initial report by July 1 and a more complete report in August. He said the panel would be provided with the survey questions for students, teachers, and school administrators that HumRRO distributed with the spring field test. Mr. Wise then asked the panelists to provide information on three questions: 1) What are the intended outcomes of the HSEE? 2) What changes will lead to those outcomes? 3) What other, possibly negative, outcomes should be tracked? The panelists discussed these questions in small groups and presented their results. Brief discussion followed.

Mr. Marsh introduced Ann Hafner, Professor, Educational Foundations, CSU Los Angeles, who has done research on testing of LEP students. She said the information she presents may help prevent differential HSEE pass rates. The problem for LEP students, she said, is that while they might know the content, they may not have the opportunity to show it. She said that for LEP students, all academic tests are tests of English knowledge. Federal law states that LEP students should be tested in a way that provides the most accurate and reliable information on what they know and can do. Her own research shows that both LEP and English proficient students did better on tests when allowed certain accommodations. She made a number of specific recommendations for testing LEP students and summarized by saying that all students do not have equal opportunity to learn content and English skills and that equality and fairness, as well as law, suggest that California should allow valid LEP accommodations on the HSEE. Discussion followed on the requirements for LEP testing described in the HSEE legislation.

Mr. Marsh asked the panel to consider how to involve educators at all levels in preparations for the HSEE. Panelists broke into mathematics and language arts subgroups to address this issue. Following their discussions, each subgroup presented their results. Mr. Marsh noted that both groups emphasized public awareness and proposed that the panel continue this discussion at their June meeting.

The panel again discussed possible dates for the first HSEE administration. The subpanel considering this question reported that they had identified several options, but had not reached a conclusion.

Mr. Marsh invited public comment. Maureen Burness from the Association of California School Administrators spoke on HSEE testing of special education students. She said her group would like to participate on panel committees, especially those involving special education. She said she anticipated many students failing the HSEE reading test, which would result in more students seeking remedial help. This would bankrupt the schools. She recommended that accommodations be approved for each disability, along with a set of guidelines for allowing these accommodations and a list of alternate tests.

David Marsh asked Phil Spears for any final observations. Mr. Spears said that the panel's comments and questions today reflected what people throughout California are feeling and thinking.

The meeting was adjourned at 4 p.m.